



August 4, 2016

Merry Holliday-Hanson, Ph.D.
Manager, Administrative Data Program
Office of the Statewide Health Planning and Development
400 R Street, Room 250
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear Merry Holliday-Hanson,

Thank you for allowing us to review and respond to Kaweah Delta Medical Center's Ischemic Stroke OSHPD data. Patient safety is our No. 1 priority; we strive to always provide high-quality care. Our response will show that in 2012, we took prompt and definitive action to improve our stroke mortality outcomes. It is important to note that the OSHPD data reflects data from 2012-2013; but, today, Kaweah Delta has significantly improved its stroke mortality outcomes. This is documented in Hospital Compare's most recent report, available at www.Medicare.gov/hospitalcompare.

The 2016 Hospital Compare provides a more current report on mortality rates, including data from the third quarter of 2012 through the second quarter of 2015. It shows Kaweah Delta's 30-day stroke mortality rating as 16 percent – no different than the national rating. Today, Kaweah Delta's observed to expected ratio for January through March 2016, is .807 (below 1 is a favorable ratio).

In fact, Kaweah Delta was recognized in July 2016, by the American Heart Association's Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke Silver Quality Achievement Award. The award reflected Kaweah Delta's work to ensure that patients with the stroke diagnosis and/or a transient ischemic attack (TIA) receive treatment that meets nationally accepted, evidence-based standards and recommendations set by the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association.

These results can be attributed to many quality improvement initiatives within KDHCD. Kaweah Delta is working toward Joint Commission Primary Stroke Certification, which has helped reduce the variation in clinical processes, improving the quality of patient care and increasing community education on stroke prevention. With these, and other performance improvement activities, KDHCD will continue to improve patient safety and medical and surgical outcomes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'E. Hirsch', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Edward A. Hirsch, M.D.
Vice President and Chief Medical / Quality Officer
Kaweah Delta Health Care District